

Our quality of service, your quality of life



Asheville Fire-Rescue

Community Emergency Shelters

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Emergency Shelter Purpose

- To temporarily provide shelter to residents and visitors to the Asheville area.
- Shelters are activated by the City or County Emergency Services
- Shelters are operated and managed by the American Red Cross. City staff supports the Red Cross operation.

Activation Process

- Asheville's emergency community shelters can be activated for any number of reasons:
- Weather situations
- Hazardous material situations
- Fires or other reasons for large dislocations.

More on Process

- Red Cross maintains active agreements with property owners for use of community shelters.
- Once emergency services determines a need, Red Cross puts into motion efforts to establish a shelter.
- Red Cross staff and volunteers are trained in shelter management.
- If the shelter is a city facility, Asheville Parks and Recreation staff assist the Red Cross in set up and in operation as needed.
- The city, county and the Red Cross would work cooperatively to publicize the shelter availability.
- Shelter status is maintained by emergency services and information relayed to necessary parties.

Typical CoA Shelter Locations:

- City of Asheville Community Centers
- Asheville City Schools
- Buncombe County Schools
- Identified large churches

Local Shelter Considerations:

- Most local shelter operations are limited in scope.
- Approximately 500 cots and provisions are immediately available within the City of Asheville.
- State resources as well as regional and national Red Cross resources can be made available based upon incidents and needs in other locations.
- Asheville community centers are equipped with electrical switch gear for generators.
- However, no community centers currently are currently equipped with emergency generators.
- Generator equipped facilities will often be used first.
- Some schools and churches are equipped with generators.

Next steps?

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Thank you!

